

TEN FAMOUS WOMEN

The Wives of the Great Heroes of the Past.

HOW THEY LIVE AT WASHINGTON

Mrs. Sheridan's Home—Mrs. General Logan—Mrs. Zach Chandler and Kate Chase—Sprague—Mrs. Garfield.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1890.—[Special correspondence of THE HERALD.]—Mrs. General Sheridan is devoting herself to the education of her children. She has not gone into society at all this winter, and she lives all alone with her little ones in the big \$40,000 brick mansion which was presented to the general when he came to Washington. Mrs. Sheridan is one of the

FINEST LOOKING WOMEN OF THE CAPITAL. She is straight and slender, has beautiful eyes and her face is almost classic in its features. She is the daughter of General Ricketts, who was at one time quarter-master-general of the army, and she was, during her husband's life, the center of attraction of the army circle of the capital. She is finely educated, and she was thoroughly wrapped up in her husband. All of her surroundings tend to call up the hero who has passed away, and the Sheridan house is one of the most noted ones at the capital. It stands within a stone's throw of Scott Circle, is on the corner of Rhode Island avenue and Seventeenth street and it has many rooms and many windows. Its interior is filled with many curios picked up by General Sheridan during his long career. Stuffed birds, which he shot, look down upon you as you enter the hall, and in the dining room there is a great elk's head with wide branching antlers which is a trophy of his hunting. A magnificent tiger's skin hangs in the hall over a Mexican saddle mounted in silver and gold, and beside these an American flag is draped. The parlors contain many pictures of Sheridan, and one of the finest of these is a large portrait of the general in oil. It represents him in full uniform, and there is a painting by E. C. Sheridan's hand. Back of the parlor is the library where the general wrote the greater part of his memoirs and where are the books of which he was most fond. Here are a number of autographs, letters signed by the hand of Abraham Lincoln congratulating Sheridan upon his military service from time to time during the war, and upon the shelves are photographs of Hismarck, Napoleon and Washington, and above them are engravings and etchings of General Sheridan's army friends. It is the same in the dining room, and throughout the house, and Mrs. Sheridan is thus living largely in the past.

MRS. GENERAL HANCOCK.

I visited Mrs. General Hancock's house to-day, but I find it is rented to a Cincinnati family, and that Mrs. Hancock is living in New York. Her house here is worth perhaps \$20,000, and it was a present to her from Mr. Corcoran and other wealthy residents of Washington. It is a big, three-story and basement structure of Philadelphia pressed brick and brown stone. It is on a corner, is on the farthest edge of the fashionable section and is growing in value every year. It has about fifteen rooms, and it ends at the corner in a brown stone tower. Brass railings lead up the brown stone steps to a wide front door and you enter under a half-moon of stained glass. There is more stained glass in the windows and the house is beautifully finished as to paper and painting. Mrs. Hancock has, however, spent but a short time in it, though she will probably make Washington her residence in the future. She is not rich, and General Hancock died comparatively poor. Her memoirs of her husband had such sale as the books of Grant or Sheridan, and she has not a great deal in addition to her pension to live upon. General Hancock was not a money-maker. He gave a great deal to charity, and he was generous to a fault. He married Mrs. Hancock in 1850. She was then a young lady of St. Louis and the two spent nearly a generation of happy years together.

HOW MRS. LOGAN FURNISHED CALUMET PLACE.

Mrs. General Logan has, perhaps, the finest home of any of the noted widows of Washington. Calumet Place commands a view of the whole city and the surrounding country for miles. It is a roomy, two-story brick with a hall running through its center so wide that you could turn a wagon-load of hay around in it without touching the walls. Immense rooms open into this hall from either side, and these are packed with relics of General Logan and with the evidences of Mrs. Logan's and the general's taste. The two planned the furnishing of the house together. General Logan did a great deal of the carpenter work in reconstructing it according to their ideas, and he aided his wife in selecting and arranging the furniture. Every room contains many reminiscences of him, and Mrs. Logan says she would not be happy away from Washington on this account. When they took the house it was battered and worn. The big rooms each looked as large as a barn, and it did not seem possible that anything less than a lifetime or a fortune could make it habitable. Good taste, hard work and a moderate amount of money gave it one of the transformations that are said to have come from Aladdin's lamp. The wide doors were covered with portiers made of Navajo blankets of red and blue, which Mrs. Logan and the general bought from the Zuni Indians. They scattered some mahogany seats through the wide hall, and hung upon its walls Indian relics and old armor with some of the general's weapons. During his whole life General Logan had received presents of canvas, and he had kept these until he had a barrel full. A curious little basket was bought for these, and they formed one of the curiosities of the drawing room. Every piece of furniture has its history, and in the bed room there is a table that Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, once owned; and in their bed room there had a lamp which burned the midnight oil for Henry Clay when he played wicket or planned out his Presidential campaigns. One of the sofas had belonged to Silldell, and in their bed room in which the general died, there was a table which had been which came from President Buchanan's home in Pennsylvania. In one of the parlors there was a couch which General Logan constructed himself, upon which he loved to lie after a hard day in the Senate, and in the corners of the room were flags and banners each of which had a story which both Mrs. Logan and the general could tell. The most of this furniture stands to-day in the same places it did when General Logan was alive. There are, perhaps, a few more portraits of Logan upon the walls, and at the end of the double parlors there has been built the memorial hall in which Mrs. Logan has collected the mementoes of her husband. It is a perfect museum of Logan history, and the general read between the lines can here see the history of the late war. I will not attempt to describe it, save that it is one of the most interesting homes in the capital to visit Washington, and that no grand army man ever comes to the capital without calling upon Mrs. Logan. I chatted with Mrs. Logan the other day about the general's book. The tears filled her eyes as she spoke, and she told me that the general wrote the book more with a view to inciting patriotic ideas than to make money. She said a large number of the books had been sold, and she told me her profits on each copy were 40 cents. Her magazine, she said, was doing well, and she referred with pleasure to her tour in Europe, which she made during the last summer as the chaperone of George M. Pullman's daughter. She has, you know, a pension of \$2,000 a year from the government, and though General Logan did not leave a large amount of money, still his widow is by no means in want, and she lives very nicely here.

MRS. ZACH CHANDLER'S NEW HOME.

One of the finest houses of the capital is now being built on the corner of Sixteenth and K streets, and the widow of Senator

Zach Chandler is the builder. Mrs. Chandler is the mother-in-law of Senator Eugene Hale, and it is probable that the Senator and his wife will live with her when her mansion is completed. The ground upon which this house is being built is \$8 per square foot, and the cost of the house, I doubt not, will run close to \$100,000. Zach Chandler, however, left a fortune, and his widow was a millionaire. The most of the money that Eugene Hale owns comes from his wife, and the family is as well off as could be desired. I was talking one day with one of the millionaire Senators, and he told me that when a man had \$40,000 a year it did not make much difference whether he had any more or not. I doubt not that Mrs. Zach Chandler is in this condition, and I do not suppose it makes much difference whether she is worth more than a million or not. A million at 4 per cent. will, you know, bring in \$40,000.

KATE CHASE SPRAGUE.

Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague is a widow in one sense if not in another. She was divorced from her husband years ago, and she has spent a good part of her life ever since then in Paris. During the past two years she has lived at Washington, and she is now residing at Edgewood, the country seat which her father bought some time before his death. She promises to make a lot of money out of this estate. The city is growing out towards it. A part of it has been divided up into lots, and it has quadrupled in value within the past three years. Kate Chase is just as bright now as she was when she presided over her father's mansion here at Washington, and she exhibits the same qualities to-day that made her so famous then. It was for her, I am told, that her father anxiously desired that he might be President of the United States. She had the qualities which would have made her a more remarkable mistress of the White House than any this country has ever had, and her father would have made a magnificent President. Mrs. Sprague is a woman of fine literary ability, and I understand that she is now engaged in writing a life of her father. She has her father's diary containing his memoranda which he jotted down every night before he went to bed, and she has private correspondence and letters which contain a great amount of unwritten history. She is working very carefully and very slowly on the work, and she verifies all her statements as she goes along. The work will contain two volumes, and it will be a valuable contribution to the history of this country. Mrs. Chase has her children with her at Washington. Ethel Chase Sprague is one of the noted horsewomen of the capital, and she is a very bright society belle. She has a taste for the stage and, like her two sisters, is possessed of more than ordinary intellectual ability.

A NOTED ADMIRAL'S WIDOW.

Madeline Vinton Dahlgren, the widow of Admiral Dahlgren, spends her winters in Washington. She has built a fine house here on a wedge of ground facing Thomas Circle. She planned the house herself, and its interior is filled with curious ideas in architecture. Her library has a floor of a spider's web made of wood inlaid with different colors, and Mrs. Dahlgren once told me that this web was meant to indicate that the pursuit of knowledge should be without end and should go on as long as life lasts. It made me think of my girlhood poetry:

"Round as this ring that has no end,
So is my love to you, my friend."

It is the same in the curious tiling of the library fireplace. "The passion flower," said she, "represents the love which one should have for learning," and other curious conceits I found in the ceiling, the arrangements of the books and in the hanging of the fine old paintings which looked down upon me from the wall.

Mrs. Dahlgren is another literary widow. She has written a number of novels and some books of a more solid nature. She is very earnest in her Catholic faith, and in the library there has been made a little alcove containing a statue of the Virgin. The light which comes into this alcove shines through a stained glass window, and the interior is made in the shape of a heart. A lace curtain separates the alcove from the rest of the library, and it is here that Mrs. Dahlgren says her prayers. She is a very kind-hearted lady, is not ostentatious or snobbish, and though she has seen many years she knows no lack of mental or physical vigor.

THE WIDOWS OF COX AND RANDALL.

The widow of Sunset Cox owns several houses at Washington. One of these was built after Mr. Cox returned from Turkey, and it has rooms fitted out of the Turkish or Moorish style of architecture. The frieze of one room is a text from the Koran, and the portiers are richly embroidered curtains from Mohammedan mosques. The house is worth, I should judge, about \$30,000, and is one of the most comfortable homes of Washington. Mrs. Cox also owns a house in New York, and she has spent most of the winter in that city. She is, I am told, engaged in writing a biography of her husband, and she possesses remarkable literary taste. Her husband referred many things to her, and she was, like Mrs. General Logan, one of the most valuable wives that a statesman ever had. She kept all kinds of worries away from Sunset Cox, and it was through her aid that he was able to accomplish such a great work. She traveled with Mr. Cox wherever he went, and I have in my possession a picture of herself and husband taken by the midnight sun in New York. Mrs. Cox was originally very well to do. Her husband made a great deal out of his books and he was a success as a lawyer. During the latter part of his life he made some good investments and his estate was quite large. Sam Randall left next to nothing, and his estate, all told, will probably not foot up \$25,000. He was not a money-maker nor a money lover, and I might also say that he was not much of a money spender. The little house which he owned here at Washington is not worth over \$5,000, and I am not sure, but I think his country place was a rented one. Mrs. Randall's daughter, Annie married a young lawyer of Washington, and, though it is not settled, it is probable that Mrs. Randall will spend much of her time here.

OTHER NOTED WIDOWS.

Mrs. Mollie Garfield Brown has bought a lot on Kalorama Heights, and I am told that she will erect a fine house upon it. It is reported here that Mrs. Garfield will then come to Washington to live with her daughter, and she will certainly spend many of her winters here. She is well-to-do, and through the fund raised for her in the time of General Garfield's death, she has her \$5,000 a year as a President's widow. Mrs. General Grant did think of buying a house in Washington, and there was a prospect last fall that she would buy the house which Edwin M. Stanton used to own, facing Franklin square. She concluded to wait for a year or two, however, and she has remained during the most of the winter at her New York house. Mrs. Stanley Matthews spent part of the winter here this year, and her big house is offered for sale for something less than \$100,000. Mrs. Waite has also been here this winter, and there are a number of other noted widows who spend a part of every winter at Washington.

SOME RICH WIDOWS.

A number of very wealthy widows either live in Washington or spend part of every winter here. Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer, who has made millions out of patent medicines, occasionally visits Washington, and she always has several fortunes in diamonds in her trunk. Mrs. Frank Leslie is now in Washington, and she has a reputation with diamonds in her ears as big as hazel nuts, and Mrs. Alexander Ray is another millionaire widow who lives here. Mrs. Hutchinson, the wife of the man who made so much money in selling seal skins, has a residence at the capital, and it is only a year or two now that the rich Mrs. Patten died. Mrs. Patten had hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in real estate, and she built a house here which cost very nearly one hundred thousand dollars. Mrs. Walsh, formerly of St. Louis, spends many of her winters at Washington. She is worth at least a quarter of a million, and she has a good income. She is the daughter of ex-Governor Shannon, of Ohio, who was once minister to Mexico, and she was, years ago, one of the belles of the west. The Duke Alexis paid her considerable attention when he was in this country, and he called her one of the most beautiful women of America.

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